



**MINUTES
September 23, 2023**

Present: Brandi Rai, President
Greta Gerstner, Director
Edward Tse, Director
Richard Haggarty, Director (joined 11:00 a.m. Saturday, left at 5:23 p.m.)
Shelley Odishaw, Vice President
Kerry Bodell, Director
Ken Glazebrook, Director (left 11:30 a.m. Saturday)

Regrets/Leave: Krista Li, Director; Chelsea Ezeagwuna, Director

Staff: Wendy Keiver, Executive Director

Guests: Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education
Assistant Deputy Minister, First Nations, Métis, Inuit Education Division, Lisa Higgerty

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

President Rai called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2023 and welcomed everyone. She provided a Treaty and Territory Acknowledgement. Directors then participated in team-building activities centered on “glimmers.”

2. BOARD MEETING PROTOCOLS/TEAM AGREEMENT/CULTURE CONTAINER

The ASCA Board Meeting Protocols, the ASCA Team Agreement, and the ASCA Culture Container were supplied for information and review.

3. REVIEW OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The President noted the following additions to the Agenda:

4.1.M.iii Destination 4 is a timed item on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. to accommodate observation of the discussion by Assistant Deputy Minister, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Division, Lisa Higgerty.

4.2.C.iii External Advisory Committee Representation – verbal report

3.1 Previous Board Minutes & Action/Motion Tracking: August 31, 2023

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the August 31, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

3.2 Advocacy/Resolutions Committee Report (4.1.A) (Removed from Consent Agenda)

3.3 Fund Development Committee Report (4.1.B) (Removed from Consent Agenda)

3.4 Governance Committee Report (4.1.C)

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Governance Committee report for information.

3.5 Internal Finance (4.1.D)

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Internal Finance Committee report for information.

3.6 Member Engagement Committee Report (4.1.F)

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Member Engagement Committee report for information.

3.7 Recognition Awards Committee Report (4.1.H)

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Recognition Awards Committee report for information.

MOTION: Directors Gerstner/Bodell

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Consent Agenda as amended.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY



4. BUSINESS: STEWARDSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

4.1 Stewardship (Association Oversight)

A. Advocacy/Resolutions Committee

MOTION: Directors Glazebrook/Tse

That the ASCA Board of Directors directs the Advocacy and Resolutions Committee to prepare a draft Proposed Advocacy Resolution coming from the Board for ASCA Member School Councils' consideration related to ASCA articulating clarity around diversity and equity when defining Safety in Schools.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Vice President Odishaw/Director Gerstner

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Advocacy and Resolutions Committee report for information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Fund Development Committee

MOTION: Directors Gerstner/Bodell

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Fund Development Committee report for information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Directors Gerstner/Bodell

That the ASCA Board of Directors commits to actively contributing to the success of the Online Silent Auction and the Golf Tournament.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

Action: Executive Director Keiver will ensure there is some promotional information related to the Golf Tournament on the website before Thanksgiving Weekend.

C. Governance Committee (Consent Agenda Item)

D. Internal Finance Committee (Consent Agenda Item)

E. Legacy Committee

No Report

F. Member Engagement Committee (Consent Agenda Item)

G. Nominations Committee

No Report

H. Recognition Awards Committee (Consent Agenda Item)

I. Education Issues and E-Scan

Meeting with Minister re K-6 SS Curriculum:

The President reported on the positive and meaningful meeting with the Minister and some of his staff and the presentation on the new engagement process proposed for the Draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum. The presentation also included information related to the new draft's architecture, scope, and sequence. It is also reassuring to know that other education stakeholders appear to be supportive of both the proposed and already implemented changes.

Student Transportation:

The Executive Director summarized the topics covered at the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council (ASTAC) Town Hall meeting held on Thursday, September 21, 2023. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Education, relevant Department staff, and representatives from most education stakeholders, along with school bus companies and operators, drivers, division transportation coordinators, and others. There is acknowledgment that the industry is experiencing



difficulties, with challenges primarily relating to attraction, retention, and recognition of quality bus drivers. The ASCA's presence conveyed the importance of the topic to the Association and its Members and that we are eager to be part of finding solutions.

Pronoun Changes for Students:

President Rai reminded the Board of the multiple actions and conversations that have taken place so far regarding this topic. She posed the question, "How do we (ASCA) educate and inform." The volume of misinformation prevalent in many individuals' lives is overwhelming and deeply concerning. Because of the number of protesters who are new to Canada, racialized and/or of non-Christian faiths, the organizers are being intentionally careful with their messaging and purpose. As such, it is very important for the ASCA Board to be mindful of not immediately assuming a person or group of people are bigoted or hateful.

Roundtable: Items identified by Directors:

One Director spoke of a principal dictating how and when the school council would meet but that the school councils had not yet met. A Director having had the opportunity to network with parents from other provinces recently reported that most are viewing the recent conflicts related to the topic of pronoun use in schools with the perspective that politicians in other provinces are making decisions for their own political gain, not representing the views of their constituents or in the best interests of students and families. In some school communities, the capacity of parents to fill volunteer positions is a challenge. Transportation fee changes seem to vary across the province; some are higher than last year, and some are lower. The recent E. coli breakout in daycares in a metro community has had extended outcomes in some school communities connected to the affected facilities. Yet, the transparency for reporting and communicating with parents is lacking. Parents are concerned but feel slightly powerless to influence improvements. The recent protests and counter-protests caused significant disruptions in some communities. The Executive Director reported an increase in hearing stories from individuals working in any aspect of education related to the abusive treatment and entitled attitude coming from some parents in some school communities.

J. Financial Report

- i. Income Statement on August 31, 2023, forecast and revised budget

MOTION: Directors Gerstner/Glazebrook

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the August 31, 2023, Income Statement for information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

- ii. Balance Sheet on August 31, 2023

MOTION: Directors Bodell/Glazebrook

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the August 31, 2023, Balance Sheet for information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

K. Board Progress: Vision Path Destinations and Growth Goals Progress

A new format for reporting Board Progress on these items has been implemented. The Board reviewed the report provided in the package to determine its appropriateness in meeting the intention.

MOTION: Directors Gerstner/Bodell

That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Board Progress: Vision Path Destinations and Growth Goals report for information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

L. Executive Director Report

- i. Monthly Activities: ED, Staff



MOTION: *Vice President Odishaw/Director Tse*
That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Monthly Activities report for information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

M. Board Management

- i. Mentorship/PODs
Vice President Odishaw led the Board through a team-building activity.
- ii. In-Camera
The Board did not move in camera during this meeting.
- iii. 2024-2027 Vision Path Planning

MOTION: *Directors Gerstner/Bodell*
That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the 2024-2027 Vision Path as amended and authorizes the Executive Director to make any necessary technical edits before posting publicly.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

Action: The Executive Director is to make the required changes and technical edits in the 2024-2027 Vision Path before posting it on the Director's page and publicly.

4.2 Representation (Provincial Level Participation)

A. Director's Reports

A new format for collecting Director activity information and providing a summary report to the Board has been implemented. The Board reviewed the report provided in the package for its appropriateness in meeting the intended objectives. The Board agreed that future reports could include an overarching summary in the Board package, with a link provided to the more detailed report housed on the Director's page for reference.

MOTION: *Directors Bodell/Gerstner*
That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Director's Reports for information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

B. School Council Engagement Task Force: Results

No Report

C. Stakeholder Engagement

- i. Minister of Education
The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Alberta's Minister of Education, engaged in an informative discussion with the Board. The promotion and provision of mental health support in schools was one focus the Minister spoke to, stressing the importance of students having access to timely mental health supports in schools. Access to quality mental health support is not only a priority for the Ministry of Education but also for the Government of Alberta. The Minister also responded to a question related to the recent legislative changes in other provinces in Canada requiring parental consent for teachers to use students' preferred pronouns. President Rai responded to the Minister's question about ASCA's Member's priorities in Alberta's K-12 education system, touching on class sizes and complexity, early intervention and support, transportation, Program Unit Funding, and funding for ASCA.
- ii. School Council Engagement Opportunity – **November 18, 2023, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**
The Executive Director provided a verbal report that the planning for the November 18, 2023, School Council Engagement Opportunity is progressing nicely, speakers are being confirmed, marketing has started, an agenda will be set soon, and registration will open mid to late October.



- iii. External Advisory Committee Representation
The President provided a summary of the External Advisory Committees on which ASCA has been asked to provide representation. Director Tse has offered to represent ASCA with the Calgary Regional Consortium; Director Haggarty has offered to represent ASCA with the Northwest Regional Consortium; President Rai will speak to the absent Directors about representing ASCA with the Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium. The other Regional Consortia have President Rai (ERLC), Vice President Odishaw (CARC), and Executive Director Keiver (LNEs) representing ASCA. President Rai represents ASCA at the provincial-level Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) Provincial Advisory Committee.

D. Advocacy in Action Summary

An updated report was not provided for this meeting. A link to the August 2023 report was provided to the Board on the agenda.

4.3 Unfinished Business

5. Information Items:

5.1. Future Weekend Board Meeting Dates:

November 18-19, 2023

January 20-21, 2024

March 16-17, 2024

5.2. Future Pre-AGM Board Meeting: April 19th, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.

5.3. Future General Meetings of ASCA: 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) April 21st, 2024

5.4. Future Post-AGM Board Meeting: April 21st, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

6. Meeting Evaluations (electronic): The Board was reminded to complete the online Board Meeting Evaluation prior to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

President
Brandi Rai

Executive Director
Wendy Keiver

The ASCA Board of Directors makes decisions to ensure the Alberta School Councils' Association is: Relevant; Sustainable; Autonomous; and Innovative.